

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The device selecting apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the user interface created by the user interface creating unit displays information relating to functions in the integrated profiles according to categories and enables the user to select categories of functions.

4. (Currently Amended) The device selecting apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

a memory unit, for storing profiles extracted by said extracting unit[[]];

wherein if the selecting unit cannot select a device having a profile which includes every function selected by the user, the selecting unit selects a device having a profile which includes a subset of every function selected by the user.

5. (Previously Presented) The device selecting apparatus according to claim 4, wherein if the user changes a selection of a set of functions from the integrated profile, the selecting unit reselects the device to be used based on the selection and the table.

6. (Previously Presented) The device selecting apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said devices are printers.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The device selecting method according to claim 23, wherein the user interface displays information relating to functions in the integrated profile according to categories to enable the user to select categories of functions.

10. (Previously Presented) The device selecting method according to claim 24,

wherein in said step of selecting, if there is no device having a profile which includes every function selected by the user, said step of selecting selects a device having a profile which includes a subset of every function selected by the user.

11. (Previously Presented) The device selecting method according to claim 10, further comprising:

re-executing said step of selecting if the user changes a set of functions selected from the integrated profile.

12. (Previously Presented) The device selecting method according to claim 22, wherein said devices are printers.

13-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 26, wherein said steps cause the user interface to display information relating to functions in the integrated profile according to categories to enable the user to select categories of functions.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 26, wherein in said step of selecting, if there is no device having a profile which includes every function selected by the user, said step of selecting selects a device having a profile which includes a subset of every function selected by the user.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 27, wherein the steps further comprise:

re-executing said step of selecting if the user changes a set of functions selected from the integrated profile.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium according to claim 25, wherein said devices are printers.

19. (Previously Presented) A device detecting apparatus for detecting an appropriate device from a number of devices connected to a network, said apparatus comprising:

a detecting unit which detects all the devices connected to said network;

an extracting unit which extracts from the devices, corresponding profiles, each of said profiles comprising information related to functions of said devices; and

an integrated profile creating unit which integrates the profiles of said devices so as to create an integrated profile, said integrated profile being a profile of an ideal virtual device having every function of said devices.

20. (Previously Presented) The device detecting apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a user interface creating unit which creates a user interface enabling necessary functions to be selected from the functions of the integrated profile created by said integrated profile creating unit.

21. (Previously Presented) The device detecting apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

a table creating unit which creates a table related to a priority order of said devices, the priority order in which said devices are preferably used; and

a selecting unit which selects a device as a device to be used out of said devices based on the selected functions and the table.

22. (Currently Amended) A machine-implemented method for selecting an appropriate device in a network, the method comprising:

detecting a plurality of devices connected to the network;

extracting, from each of the plurality of devices, a plurality of profiles, each of the profiles comprising information related to functions of a corresponding one of said plurality of devices; and

integrating said plurality of profiles to create an integrated profile[[]];

wherein said integrated profile is a profile of an ideal virtual device having every function of said devices.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, further comprising:

creating a user interface for permitting a user to select a set of functions from the integrated profile.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising:

creating a table, the table specifying a preferred priority for use of the devices; and

selecting one of the devices based on the set of functions selected by the user from the user interface and the preferred priority specified by the table.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium for storing instructions, which when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the steps of:

detecting a plurality of devices connected to a network;

extracting, from each of the plurality of devices, a plurality of profiles, each of the profiles comprising information related to functions of a corresponding one of said plurality of devices; and

integrating said plurality of profiles to create an integrated profile[[:]];.

wherein said integrated profile is a profile of an ideal virtual device having every function of said devices.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 25, wherein the steps further comprise:

creating a user interface for permitting a user to select a set of functions from the integrated profile.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 26, wherein the steps further comprise:

creating a table, the table specifying a preferred priority for use of the devices; and

selecting one of the devices based on the set of functions selected by the user from the user interface and the preferred priority specified by the table.

28. (New) A device detecting apparatus for detecting an appropriate device from a number of devices connected to a network, said apparatus comprising:

a detecting unit which detects all the devices connected to said network;

an extracting unit which extracts from the devices, corresponding profiles, each of said profiles comprising information related to functions of said devices;

an integrated profile creating unit which integrates the profiles of said devices so as to create an integrated profile, said integrated profile being a profile of an ideal virtual device having every function of said devices;

a table creating unit which creates a table related to a priority order of said devices, the priority order in which said devices are preferably used; and

a selecting unit which selects a device as a device to be used out of said devices based on the selected functions and the table.